

# UPN REPOSITORY OF AUSTRALIA

## THE DATA REGISTRY FOR MEDICAL DEVICES



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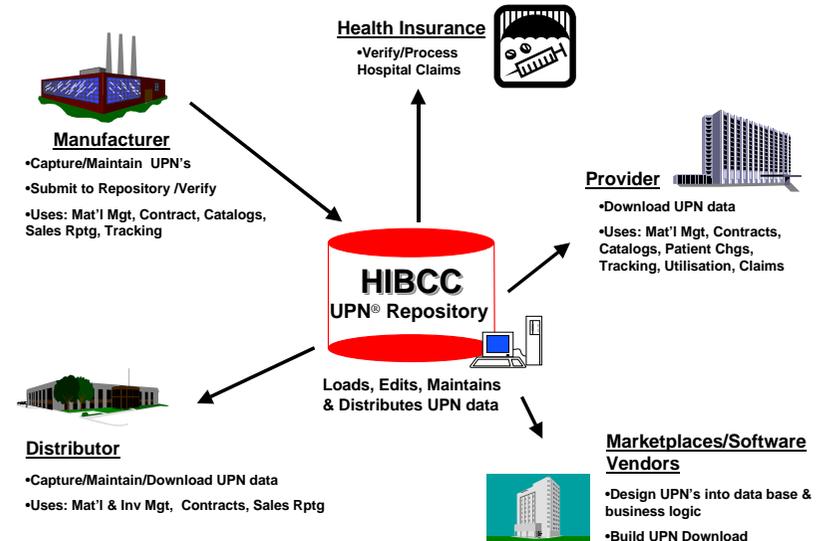
### What is the UPN Repository?

The UPN Repository is a master catalogue of medical and surgical products containing basic data elements such as Manufacturer Name, Product Description and other relevant information about medical and surgical products. The UPN Repository is a centrally maintained database, managed by HIBCC.

The purpose of the UPN Repository is to provide an accurate and up-to-date source of product data, “synchronised” across the health supply chain. It ensures that costly product data errors are minimised, and information flowing through the supply chain is streamlined and readily available.

The UPN Repository facilitates AUTO ID or barcoding applications, since Medical devices are generally barcoded with the UPN.

The contents of the UPN Repository are provided and maintained by the suppliers. Users of the data include Health Providers (such as hospitals), distributors, health regulators and software vendors needing the data for their applications.



**The UPN Repository is the foundation to improved supply chain management for medical devices, resulting in cost containment, improved tracking, and patient safety.**

## Why is the UPN Repository so Important?

Suppliers of Medical Devices have been barcoding their products for a considerable time, and they have benefited from this by improving the management of their supply chain. The benefits to date, however, have been confined to the logistical operations of the individual suppliers, and therefore the full potential of the investment in barcoding has not been realised.

There is a growing realisation globally that Auto-ID applications, such as barcoding, deliver benefits to the care-giving organisations, and this is now driving the take-up of barcoding applications within Australian hospitals.

By integrating the care-giving functions with the supply chain and logistics functions, significant benefits can be realised:

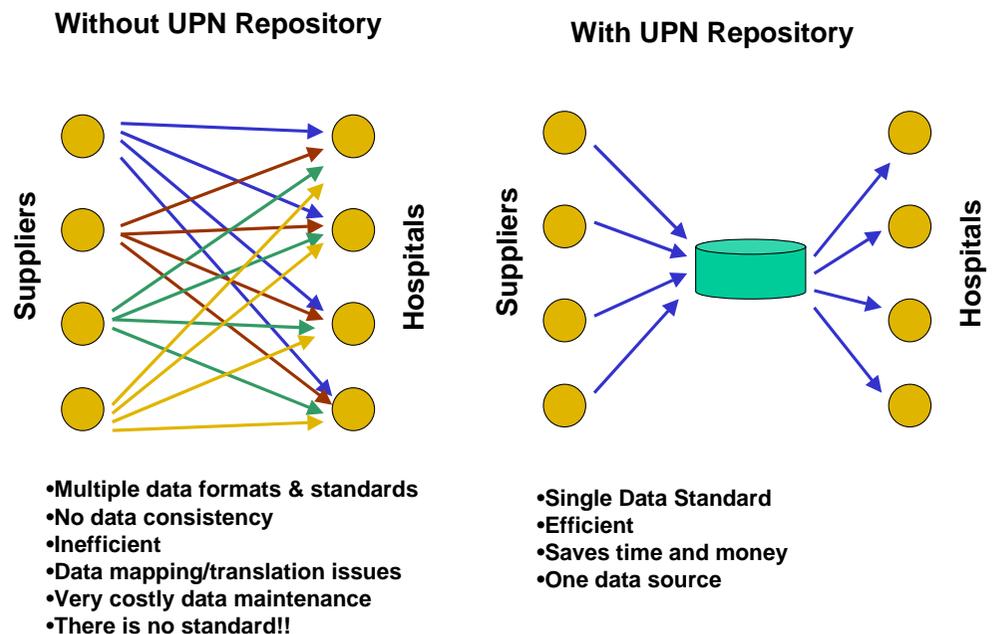
- Reduction in errors associated with the supply of medical devices to patients.
- Improved tracking of devices to the patient.
- Improved management and tracking of recalls associated with medical devices, to ensure minimum risk to suppliers and hospitals.
- Improved supply chain management – streamlining the supply chain and introducing better management of stock and replenishment cycles, resulting in cost containment for hospitals and suppliers.
- Improved billing management and administration between hospitals, suppliers and health funds.

## The UPN Repository Business Case

The foundation to enabling Auto-ID and e-business transactions is to have clean, accurate and up-to-date product data, in a consistent and standardised format. The UPN Repository is designed to provide this:

- It is an accurate, centrally maintained and managed database of medical devices data.

- Reduces the cost of implementing Auto-ID (barcoding) applications within hospitals, since the obstacle is usually the availability of accurate and reliable product data.
- Saves time and cost in the creation and maintenance of databases by individual hospitals to make their Auto-ID applications effective.
- Without the UPN Repository, suppliers and hospitals need to deal with multiple parties and multiple data formats and standards. This becomes unwieldy and inefficient.



There is a growing realisation that the implementation of Auto-ID applications (including barcoding) brings significant benefits to the management of the supply chain, by introducing more effective cost control, and patient safety. Many hospitals have commenced projects to scan barcodes on products during surgical operations, however, a key inhibitor has been the acquisition of product data linked to the UPN (or the barcode data). There are also examples of Suppliers and hospitals who, after

having instigated barcode scanning projects, abandoning them due to being frustrated by poor quality data and standards.

The UPN Repository facilitates the data issues around the administration of prostheses and other medical devices, and includes the Schedule 5 billing code for all listed products. Therefore, in implementing barcoding solutions within hospitals, the scanning of the product will not only identify the product, but also the schedule 5 billing code for each individual component.

## Benefit to Hospitals

Hospitals benefit from the UPN Repository, since it enables them to:

- Accurately identify the medical devices used in any procedure and the associated billing codes.
- Produce accurate hospital claims to the fund, identifying each component used. This will lead to less billing errors and improved management of claims to health funds<sup>1</sup>.
- Reduce/eliminate the current paper trail associated with accurately billing the health funds for procedures involving medical devices.
- More accurately track medical device products – contributing to improved patient safety, and improved management of recalls.
- Reduce cost of implementation of Auto-ID applications.
- Reduce cost of managing and maintaining product data.

## Benefit to Suppliers

Suppliers benefit from the UPN Repository, since it provides:

- A single point of access for maintenance of suppliers product data, without the need to store multiple database formats for individual hospital customers.
- Reduced costs in the management and administration of product data.
- The foundation for improved “end-to-end” supply management, including:
  - Improved inventory and replenishment management.
  - Improved billing management, including reduced billing cycles.
  - Reduced costs associated with auditing and managing consignment stock in particular.

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<sup>1</sup> Many hospitals are not billing a high proportion of high cost implanted medical devices, since they are not accurately identified at the time of the procedure. Hospitals are unnecessarily incurring this cost due to poor administration.

## Current Members

The current members of HIBCC AU subscribing to the UPN Repository Service include some of the largest suppliers of medical devices globally, as well as some of the leading hospital groups in Australia.

### Supplier Members include:

Abbott Vascular Devices  
Advanced Medical Optics  
Cook Australia  
DePuy Australia  
Edwards Lifesciences  
Guidant Australia  
Johnson & Johnson Medical  
Linvatec Australia  
St Jude Medical  
Stryker Australia  
Smith & Nephew Surgical  
Welch Allyn  
Zimmer

### Hospital Members Include:

The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne  
ACT Health  
Central Coast Health  
The Epworth Eastern  
The Epworth Richmond  
St Vincent's Private Hospital, Toowoomba  
Holy Spirit Northside

**For further information about the UPN numbering system, or any of the other HIBCC standards and services, please contact HIBCC AU.**



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